

THE LIVTH CONGRESS

AUGUST BODIES ARE AGAIN IN SESSION.

Chiefly Notable at Present for the Lack of Familiar Faces—Flood of Bills and Resolutions Is Ready for the House.

Assembling of the Solons.
Washington correspondence: The fifty-fourth Congress began its first session at noon Monday, and the most striking feature to the old observer of the lower house was the absence of familiar faces. The appearance of the Senate was not greatly changed. Of the famous men in the House these are about all that are left:

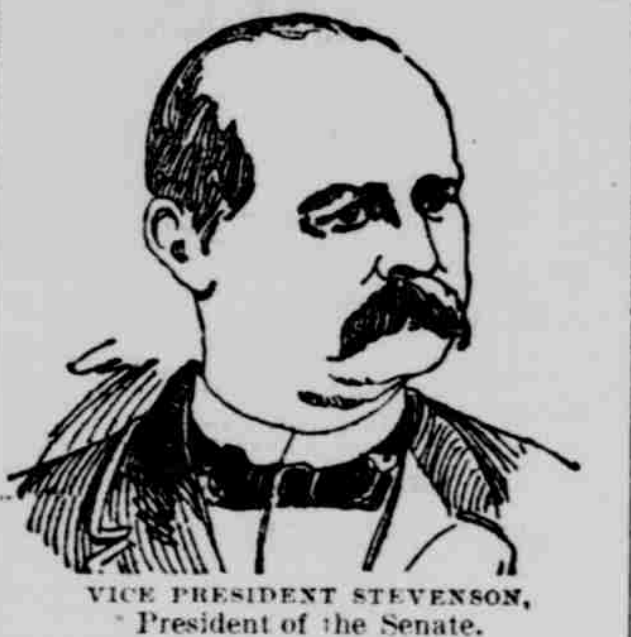
Reed, Boutelle, Dingley, and Milliken, of Maine; Dockery, Cobb, Tarsney, Hall and De Armond, of Missouri; "Private John" Allen, Catchings and Money, of

Mississippi; Crisp, of Georgia; Cannon, of Illinois; Cobb, of Alabama; Hifflon, of California; and McCleary and Berry, of Kentucky.

The face of Breckinridge is missing, as is also many another familiar one—SENATOR ELKINS. Bland, of Missouri; father of the cart wheel dollar; Holman, of Indiana, watchdog of the treasury for thirty years; Bourke Cockran, New York's famous campaign orator; Bryan, of Nebraska, the "boy orator of the Platte"; Springer, of Illinois, and Kilgore, of Texas. Conn. of Indiana, is not in the Congressional parade; like that other ex-Congressman, Beriah Wilkins, of Ohio, he has prospered in the field of journalism at the capital.

But the list is too long. It would fill a column to record all that have gone and all that still remain. To the stranger eye perhaps the gathering is much as it was two years ago. Here and there a face made familiar by the cartoonists appears, but for the most part the crowd on the famous avenue on the morning of the first Monday in December was made of curious visitors and the customary shopping mob of Washington men and women. There was more of life in the

them, now past the semi-centenary of service and conscious of his importance as a one time protégé of the great Webster, was in charge of the floor. Everything is fresh and clean and bright-looking. The furniture has been reupholstered, a new carpet has been laid. The



VICE PRESIDENT STEVENSON, President of the Senate.

Senate wears out a carpet in every Congress. The Senators dropped in one at a time. There are not many in their places usually when the gavel falls, but on the opening day there was a larger number than is customary at other times.

The galleries were fairly well filled when at one minute before 12 o'clock the eastern door leading to the lobby opened and the Vice President and the chaplain appeared. Mr. Stevenson, who has been spending his summer in Alaska and at his home in Bloomington, and whose ruddy complexion tells of improved health, and Dr. Milburn, the famous "blind chaplain," who has been in the service of Congress off and on since he was a youth and whose thousands of miles of travel have been increased during the Congressional recess by a trip to Europe.

The gavel of the Vice President is an ivory device, small and shaped something like an hour glass. It has been in the care of Capt. Bassett through the summer, concealed no one knows where, but hidden as completely as the identity of Daniel Webster's desk, which Bassett has stored in his mind.

UNCLE SAM'S WISE MEN CALLED BACK.



through than there has been for many a day, for all roads do not lead to the capitol, and Pennsylvania avenue is the chief thoroughfare to that Mecca of the politician.

The Meeting of the Senate.
The number of new faces in the Senate chamber when the Vice President called that body to order was comparatively few.

Mr. Ransom's was missing. Mr. Butler, of South Carolina, another relic of the age of chivalry in the South, is also gone into retirement Georgia sends Augustus O. Bacon to take the seat held for a brief space by Patrick Walsh, the editor of the Augusta Chronicle. Mr. Gear, an old-time member of the House, best known as "Gor Gear," fills the seat of Wilson, of Iowa.

Ex-Gov. Knute Nelson, known not so long ago as a member of the House, takes the place of Washburn, of Minnesota. Mr. Dixon, of Rhode Island, gives way to George Peabody Wetmore, W. J. Sewell, once a member of the Senate, takes the seat of McPherson. Ex-Secretary Elikins succeeds Johnson of Camden, of West Virginia. Ex-Senator Warren, of Wyoming, returns to take the place of Mr. Carey, and Thomas S. Martin, of Virginia, displaces Eppa Hunton.

Not many changes. But the Senators serve for six years and are reasonably sure of re-election. Mr. Morrill has been in the Senate twenty-eight years, Mr. Sherman thirty years, Mr. Allison twenty-two years. Mr. Ransom had served for twenty-three years continuously when he retired.

Because there are so few newcomers among them the gathering of the Senators was like the reunion of a big family. No party distinctions were drawn as they grouped themselves on the floor of the Senate chamber. Personal friendships obliterate for a time that imaginary line which separates Democrat from Republican, and the representatives of the parties and of all sections of the country mingle freely, shaking hands, exchanging congratulations on improved health, swapping a little gossip of the late election campaign.

A long time before the noon hour the floor of the chamber had been cleared of strangers. The pages hurried to and fro with an air of bustling importance. They are prime factors in legislation, they think. But at least from this day they are the recipients of a daily stipend of \$2, and that is a matter of much seriousness to them.

Capt. Isaac Bassett, the chief among

The Vice President took the little gavel and tapped lightly on the cloth-covered desk. Conversation ceased and many of the Senators arose while the chaplain delivered a brief invocation. At its conclusion the chairs filled rapidly. There was no journal of the last day's session to read, and the first business to transact was the swearing-in of newly elected Senators. Many had been sworn in at the last session in preparation for their inauguration. So this business was accomplished quickly.

Announcement was shortly made that the President would send his message the following day, and adjournment was taken; but not until a flood of bills had poured in, for the Senators were well loaded with business.

In the House.

The House was a far more entertaining place than the Senate. The new Congressmen are all excitement as he sits in a group of admiring friends who have come to see him installed. His wife and children are in the gallery perhaps, and he tries to look less conscious than he feels for their sakes.

The older member has much to say to old friends on the floor—remembrances to exchange and regrets to express for the departed. But the beginning of the session is an old story to him. Perhaps he feels a momentary uneasiness about that committee chairmanship which was promised to him, but he keeps his own counsel about it. He does not get flurried, because he knows that it will do no good. He has put in all his hard work in advance of the meeting of the caucus, and he knows nothing will help him now.

Here, as in the Senate, the message receives but scant attention in the reading. Most of the members take their printed copies into the committee rooms and read the document at leisure there. The House, too, adjourns as soon as the reading is concluded, and the first session is usually hardly more than an hour or an hour and a half in length. No bills are introduced because, unlike the Senate, the House has no rules to govern it. It is acting under general parliamentary law until such time as it shall adopt the rules of the preceding House or formulate a code for itself.

It is more than likely that the rules adopted by the House in the fifty-fourth Congress will be those prepared under the supervision of Mr. Reed when he was Speaker before.

The Business of Congress.

There will be no lack of bills and resolutions. For example, the new Congress will have to consider the question of providing revenue adequate to the Government's expenditures. There is the financial problem. Two important foreign matters are to be considered again during this Congress—the Behring Sea award and the Nicaragua Canal. Mr. Greenham

agreed with England on a payment of \$425,000 to the sealers in Behring Sea, but the last House refused to accept this adjustment of the question.

Cuba will also come in for early attention, for there is no doubt a proposition to recognize the rebellious natives as belligerents will be made in both House and Senate, and the discussion of it will give the Republicans more campaign material.

In home affairs there is the bankruptcy bill, which has come so near adoption in two Congresses, but which still hangs fire. It passed both House and Senate three years ago, but never got through conference. In the last Congress it passed the House. Its legislative experience has polished it and made it a more perfect measure of its kind than when Mr. Torrey first brought it to Washington.

The bill to reorganize the navy and so dispose of the "hump" in the naval list as to give younger officers a fair chance of promotion will be taken up again at the urgent recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy.

The proposed reorganization of the army will come in for a share of attention. This measure differs from the other in that it is not supported unanimously by the officers affected. The cavalry officers think the reorganization proposed by Secretary Lamont will do them great injustice.

The Pacific Railroad Committee will have again the seemingly hopeless task of effecting an agreement for the reorganization of the Pacific roads.

Another problem which concerns the fate of legislation is the choice of committee chairmen in the House. Much power to suppress or forward legislation lies with the chairmen of committees. It is thought Hitt, of Illinois, will have foreign affairs and Boutelle the naval committee. Appropriations may go to Can-



CHAS. D. REED, Speaker of the House.

non, of Illinois, or Henderson, of Iowa, and Cannon is the favorite. For eyes and means there are Payne, of New York; Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, and Dingley, of Maine, with chances favoring the first named. If Mr. Dingley fails on ways and means he will get coinage, weights and measures without doubt.

Monkey and Cobra.

The sagacity which many animals display when dealing with snakes is one of the most curious things in nature. Snakes are so venomous, and treat them accordingly. If he attacks a snake, he does it with a series of quick jumps and recoils, and continually jerks his head upward to avoid a possible dart from the snake.

A horse kills a snake by leaping up on it with all four feet kept together, so that the snake's fangs can find nothing but the horny hoof to strike into. The knowledge of these special tactics is a part of the instinct of all animals.

A correspondent of the Chicago Inter Ocean gives an interesting description of a monkey's attack on a deadly cobra in India. The serpent was coiled up on the ground under a tree. The monkey slowly left his perch in the forks of the tree, and quietly, with great caution, moved downward until he had approached within about two feet of the reptile.

He looked like a solemn old man, cautiously moving his head from side to side, as if closely inspecting the object before him. Then he took a firm hold of the tree with one arm, and wrapped his tail closely around the trunk.

He reached forth his hand until it was within six or eight inches of the snake, and then quickly withdrew it. I was excited, and wondered if he knew the dangerous chatter of his adversary. Was he piling up unknowingly with death?

The hand of the monkey again moved toward the venomous reptile. Was he going to seize the creature? Suddenly, like a lightning flash, the monkey grasped the cobra around the neck, close to the head, such a manner that it could not bite, and the snake's body encircled the monkey's arm.

An astonishing thing followed. The snake hissed loud the monkey chattered and screeched and danced and leaped in frantic flight. He would stop his wild confusions, and seriously examine the snakehead and eyes and protruding tongue and again grin and dance about.

After he had hopped of this sport, he began to rub head of the serpent on the hard ground and continued to do this, with peevish inspections of his work, until he had rubbed the head of the cobra off. Then, with much gleeful chattering, he dropped the still writhing body, and scampered away to join companions in a neighboring grove.

A Bit Trail.

"I don't see," Mr. Maguire, as he sat in the stern of a vessel, "how the captain can find way across the ocean. If he were the other way, now, all he'd have to do would be to follow that white at behind there; but in front there's nothing to point the way."

7,000 Pound Baggage.

The luggage of a passenger weighed 7,000 pounds and his brass bed and cooking utensils.

The scandals come from Africa are black indeed.

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

GOLD'S INTRINSIC VALUE.

THE gold men are always full of the "intrinsic value of gold," and that by some mysterious law of nature in the adjustment of her mineral deposits gold is endowed with the occult power of infallibility, and like the infinite, never changes.

A friend has sent us a pointer that has been generally overlooked, that explains the whole matter—one that very careful silver men have overlooked. In Hor's debate with Harvey he fairly howled over this fact—attributing the stable value of gold to the uniform cost of mining it. Elaborate calculations have been made to show that it costs more to mine silver, dollar for dollar, than gold—a fact well proved—and thus an answer to that argument satisfactorily afforded.

But here is the real cause: England is the pioneer gold government, and has very effectively provided herself with the means to maintain a supply. The Bank of England is the real treasury of the British empire, and as gold is made the ultimate money of redemption—or the sole primary money—provision is made for a fixed value and full supply. Thus, by law, or by its charter, the Bank of England is required to purchase all gold bullion, all light weight gold coin and all foreign gold coin presented at the bank at the fixed rate, or value, of £3 17s 9d per ounce—or in our money \$18.92. As the Bank of England is the great clearing house of the world and the financial institution of the British empire, this fixes the price of gold permanently for the world. The only variation in price is that of exchange, or shipment. Anyone can now readily understand why gold shipments from America are sometimes active and sometimes suspended. It is the difference in exchange from \$18.92 per ounce at the Bank of England, and the exchange in Wall street. Thus appears at once the gigantic fog-bank of "intrinsic value." It makes of gold absolute fiat money—and gives England the controlling advantage over all other countries in the supply of gold—for it is only at the Bank of England that gold purchased at a fixed rate is made compulsory. It is only another evidence of the slavery of the United States treasury to the institution of Threadneedle street and emphasizes still more the crime of our present financial policy.

The reader can verify these facts as we write, which are: Chambers' Cyclopaedia, Edinburgh edition of 1884, volume I, page 667; Encyclopaedia Britannica, American edition of 1884, volume XVI, page 567, article on "Mint." It shows as conclusively as cause and effect that all this gold crusade and its consequences are brought about and are based on English legislation. How long will the people of America submit to this gold policy that makes even the metal itself gravitate to its control and use by the money lenders of London? No wonder, as Mr. Gladstone remarked, that England would still control the finances of the world "if London only stood firm."

Danger Point Is Near.

The United States is the only nation on earth that has bound itself to gold. It is the only country that suffers commercial depression or enjoys prosperity with the ebb and flow of gold. If when gold leaves this country and goes to England Uncle Sam suffers, John Bull must enjoy a corresponding benefit. On the other hand, when the yellow coin flows this way the British lion must howl with grief and the American eagle scream with delight.

Every student of finance knows these to be the facts. Now, as a proposition of international policy surely nothing could well be more absurd. Humanity and justice require that national prosperity on this side of the Atlantic should not be maintained at the expense of national depression and calamity on the other side. The same rule is equally good when reversed. It is evident that there is not enough gold to supply the wants of Europe and America at the same time, and that what there is kept swinging to and fro across the Atlantic, doing double duty.

Cleveland has had enough of this, and has long since come to the conclusion that our national gold reserve, or the necessity for it, must be abolished by retiring the greenbacks. Congress will no doubt be confronted with this proposition. And what then? That movement, if carried out, will wipe out most of the nation's credit money and further contract the volume of currency in this country. Silver will remain as credit money, but as long as it occupies that position nobody will want it, and, besides, it will continue to depreciate commercially and have no force as a value-giving metal money.

All this will open the way for the associated banks to take charge of the currency legislation of the country, and it will be found that they already have a scheme to supplement the retirement of the greenbacks which will put the banks in control. The danger point is close at hand.

The Flood of Gold.

If there is going to be such a flood of gold as the monometallists talk about why is it that they are scared into fits over the growth of the silver sentiment? They say that recent discoveries have

RECORD OF THE WEEK

INDIANA INCIDENTS TERSELY TOLD.

Lamentable Mistake Made by Henry Warren—Sad Fate of Lovers—Indiana's Largest Woman Dead—Horrible Practices of an Elkhardt Farmer.

Shoots an Innocent Man.
Henry Warren, a wealthy Pittsburg farmer, shot and killed a man supposed to be a robber, who was attempting to go through his barn, but on investigation it was found that he had made a serious mistake and taken the life of a harmless and inoffensive character. Warren is greatly affected over the killing, but as yet no action has been taken by the authorities.

Hidden Gold Is Found.
Joel Commons, of Parks County, who died recently, instead of being very poor, as was always supposed, had nearly \$100,000 in gold. His wife did not know he had accumulated the money until just before he died. He did not definitely describe his hiding place, and as what has already been found was widely scattered it is possible there is more yet to be found. During the war he realized a good premium on some gold, and this caused him to hold the yellow metal in high esteem. A number of gold coins have been found in old, battered cans and jars placed in out of the way corners about the farm.

Young Couple Killed by a Train.
Miss Sophia Heuler and Simon Bohrer, a young couple who were soon to be married, were walking on the track of the Pennsylvania Railroad on their way to a dance at Arcola. They stepped off the south track to avoid an east-bound express train, and did not notice the approach behind them of a delayed west-bound fast mail train, which was running very fast. The locomotive struck and knocked both over 100 feet in the air, killing them instantly. They were members of prosperous families in Abiet Township.

Feeds Dead Horses to His Hogs.
Complaint of a serious nature has been filed with the Elkhardt Board of Health against Casper Lipshitz. He is charged with feeding the carcasses of horses to his hogs and then disposing of them upon the market. Eighteen dead horses were found strewn promiscuously upon his premises, which the hogs devoured. Some of the dead animals had lain there for months. Lipshitz claimed he did not sell his hogs in Elkhardt, but shipped them to Chicago.

Fell from a Trapeze.
At a variety performance at Mozart Hall in Jeffersonville John Morris and Melvin Bennett were engaged to do a double trapeze turn. No sooner had they elevated themselves into the traps than Bennett lost his hold and before Morris could grasp him he fell a distance of thirty feet to the stage. Bennett was picked up unconscious and badly injured about the head and shoulders.

Death of a Heavy Woman.

Mrs. David Lamb, the largest woman in the State of Indiana, was buried at her old home in New Middleton. Mrs. Lamb weighed 500 pounds. No coffin could be found to fit the corpse, nor hearse to carry it. Mrs. Lamb was very poor, but refused numerous tempting offers to accompany shows.

All Over the State.

John N. Hart, tried at Marion for embezzling \$4,800 of Armour & Co., of Chicago, for whom he acted as agent, has been acquitted.

Edward P. Lytle, who was arrested at Logansport, in September, on a charge of grand larceny, has been discharged, the Grand Jury failing to return an indictment against him. He has retained counsel, and will enter suit for false imprisonment. The property he was alleged to have stolen is a seven-hundred-dollar diamond cluster, owned by John R. Kennedy, a real estate man. Lytle is prominently connected, and previous to his arrest, was the local agent of the Prudential Insurance Company.

The physicians in charge of James W. Pittenger, who attempted to commit suicide at Muncie by shooting, are completely puzzled. Pittenger is 58 years old and was despondent because his wife, to whom their farm was given as a wedding present forty years ago, does the banking, markets the products and pays off the help. He put a bullet through his heart and another through his brain. The physicians believe that either shot should have caused instant death, yet the man still lives.

Lorenzo Turner left his home in Southern Illinois at the close of the civil war to seek his fortune in the great West. A few months later word was received that he was killed in an Indian massacre somewhere in the Southwest. Since that time his parents have mourned him as dead, although no further news was received as to the disposition of his body. Tuesday an old man stepped from the train at Brazil and inquired for Mrs. G. W. McClure. He proved to be Turner. He is a brother to Mrs. McClure. He is now one of the wealthiest gentlemen of South Dakota. He was almost killed in the Indian massacre and allowed his family to believe him dead until his fortune was made.

A desperate fight among a brace of convicts at the Jeffersonville prison south Wednesday morning may result in the death of one of the combatants. William Able and James Sherman, long term men, employed in the foundry of the institution, engaged in a controversy over a remark alleged to have been made by Sherman reflecting on the character of Able's sister. Words led to blows and Able, procuring a ramming iron used by molders, attempted to strike Sherman, who ward off the blow. Another attempt to strike Sherman was made, when the latter drew a knife and thrust the blade into Able's breast near the heart, inflicting a dangerous wound.

At Washington the strike among Cabot & Co.'s miners is still on, with no prospects of settlement. The difficulty is about a screen used at one of the mines, and both sides have taken a determined stand.

Miss Lizzie A. Myers, a schoolteacher of Golden Corners, in Ripley County, while in the act of entering her cart, was attacked by a mad dog, and she avoided the brute by running around the vehicle, the dog chasing her, and finally stopping to bite the pony and to attack another dog. All the animals bitten died of hydrophobia.